

Patent  
249/178 (prev. 6646-114N7)

selectively identifying said responsive signals from said remote terminals as digital data signals or digital control signals, wherein certain of said responsive signals can serve as digital data signals, digital control signals, or both, said responsive signals including signals indicative of a customer card number for an individual caller that may be utilized to access a file storing customer card number data for individual callers;

testing at least a portion of said customer card number for approval;

recording said caller number identification signals automatically provided by said communication facility as additional data for said individual caller;

transferring a call from said individual caller to an attended terminal and displaying at least certain of the responsive signals wherein the operator at said attended terminal is capable of entering data to facilitate completion of the call from said individual caller; and

automatically providing a connection with another one of said remote terminals in accordance with stored telephone numbers.

48. (New) A method according to claim 47, further comprising the step of:  
further testing the caller number identification signals.

49. (New) A method according to claim 47, wherein the customer card number is a credit card number used for billing purposes.

50. (New) A method for controlling voice-data communications via an automated control system for use with a communication facility including remote terminals for individual callers, wherein said remote terminals include a digital input device for providing digital responsive signals, said method comprising the steps ;

interfacing a call from said individual caller to the automated system;

receiving data entered by said individual caller including two forms of distinct identification data including caller customer number plus one other form of identification;

testing at least certain of said data entered by said individual caller against a file including negative data;

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prompting said individual caller via a voice generator to enter additional data transferring the call from said individual caller to an attended terminal; and displaying at the attended terminal, at least a portion of the data entered by said individual caller.

51. (New) A method as defined in claim 50, further comprising the step of:  
further qualifying callers with respect to a limit on use with respect to each individual caller.
52. (New) A method as defined in claim 51, wherein the limit on use is a limit specified for the individual caller that allows the individual caller a limited number of uses.
53. (New) A method as defined in claim 50, further comprising the steps of:  
providing a plurality of format configurations for controlling voice-data communication and selecting one from said plurality of format configurations.
54. (New) A method according to claim 50, further comprising the step of:  
receiving caller credit card number data signals as certain of said responsive signals.
55. (New) A method according to claim 54, wherein said receiving step also includes receiving credit card expiration date data signals as certain of said responsive signals.
56. (New) A method according to claim 50 wherein said remote terminals include a voice communication device for providing audio responsive signals, and said method further comprises the steps of:  
selectively identifying said responsive signals as digital data signals, digital control signals, or audio signals; and  
recording said audio signals in digital format.